

MAR 1952 01-46

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED  
 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. 25X1A

CD NO. --

COUNTRY Portuguese Africa  
 SUBJECT Economic - Hydroelectric power, irrigation

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 17 Mar 1953

WHERE PUBLISHED Lisbon

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 20 Nov 1952

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Portuguese

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SOURCE O Seculo.

IRRIGATION AND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA

Plans are under way to facilitate the settlement of Portuguese immigrants, both in Angola and Mozambique. Hydroelectric projects will be used to provide power and to irrigate the farms.

Matala

Two hydroelectric plants are planned on the Cunene River, at Matala and at Ruacana. At Matala, a small dam is under construction which will hold 37 million cubic meters of water. The water will have a 19-meter head and a flow of 65 cubic meters per second. The crest of the dam will support a highway and the tracks of the Mossamedes-Sa da Bandeira-Vila da Ponte railroad.

With an initial installation of 17,000-kilowatt capacity, the plant will produce 60 million kilowatt-hours per year. This power will be used in the electrification of Sa da Bandeira and in the operation of irrigation pumps. Ten auxiliary water reservoirs will be located along the 250-kilometer Mucope irrigation canal.

The project is expected to provide facilities for the settlement of 15,000 immigrant families from Portugal. It will benefit an area of 420,000 hectares of pasture land and water from it will irrigate an additional 45,000 hectares of alluvial soil for raising wheat, cotton, and sugar cane, in addition to food products for local consumption. Each family will be allotted 2 hectares of irrigated land and 27 hectares of pasture land.

Ruacana

At Ruacana a small dam will be constructed to provide a head of 118 meters for a hydroelectric plant with a flow of 45 cubic meters per second. The power from this plant will be used by the electric furnaces adjacent to the Chitido mines, which are located near Ochinja, a distance of 45 kilometers from the dam.

The estimated cost of the Cunene project is 1,425,000 contos, divided as follows: (a) hydroelectric works, 120,000 contos; (b) irrigation works, 330,000 contos; and (c) settlement expenses of 15,000 immigrant families, 975,000 contos.

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Cuanza River Valley

In the Cuanza River valley, the Duque de Braganza Waterfall on the Lucala River will provide a head of 112 meters and a constant flow of 29 cubic meters per second. A hydroelectric plant at this point will produce an estimated 200 million kilowatt-hours annually and furnish power to irrigate 100,000 hectares of land.

This project will provide farm land and power facilities for 33,000 immigrant families, who will receive 30 hectares of land each. It will also furnish electric power to Catete, an important cotton center, 270 kilometers distant, where two fertilizer factories are being planned. They will produce 10,000 tons of calcium cyanamide and 8,000 tons of ammonium nitrate per year, respectively.

Total cost of constructing the irrigation project is estimated at 800,000 contos, divided as follows: (a) hydroelectric works, 235,000 contos; and (b) irrigation works, 565,000 contos. Expenses of settling the 33,000 immigrant families (65 contos each, including household effects), will amount to 2,145,000 contos, making a grand total of 2,945,000 contos.

Limpopo River Valley

An irrigation project and dam are under construction in Mozambique, along the valley of the Limpopo River. The project consists of a system of irrigation canals which are fed from the dam. The crest of the dam will also carry a highway and the tracks of the Lourenco Marques-Southern Rhodesia railroad.

This project will make farm land available to 9,500 Portuguese families at the rate of 3 hectares of irrigated land and 27 hectares of pasture land per family. The additional cost of settling these families will be about 620,000 contos.

Incomati River Valley

In the valley of the Incomati River, a dam and hydroelectric plant will be constructed which will furnish electric power to Lourenco Marques and provide irrigation for 50,000 hectares of land. This land will be divided among 16,000 immigrant families from Portugal at the rate of 3 hectares each. In addition, each family will be allotted 27 hectares of nonirrigated land.

Total cost of constructing this project is estimated at 450,000 contos, divided as follows: (a) hydroelectric works, 180,000 contos; and (b) irrigation works, 270,000 contos.

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